

CLAIMS

1. A farrowing crate comprising;
 - a cage defined by a front wall, a rear wall and two side walls shaped and arranged to contain a farrowing sow and its piglets;
 - 5 a flooring on which the sow can lie within the cage and can stand at will for taking feed and water;
 - and a feeder at the front wall for supplying feed to the sow when standing;
 - the feeder comprising;
 - 10 a hopper for containing feed for supply to the sow,
 - a trough for receiving feed discharged from the hopper for taking by the sow while standing;
 - the trough comprising a base plate arranged to lie substantially flat on the flooring and extend from the front wall rearwardly over the flooring;
 - 15 the base plate forming the trough having a raised transverse restricting member spaced from the front wall and extending generally across the base plate to define a trough area of the base plate forwardly of the transverse restricting member;
 - the transverse restricting member being shaped so as to have a height
 - 20 which tends to restrain feed from escaping from the trough area rearwardly;

and the transverse restricting member being shaped so as to allow the sow to lie on the flooring with its head extending over the transverse restricting member into the trough area without causing discomfort to the lying sow.

2. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the base plate
5 is flat.

3. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the base plate lies directly on the flooring.

4. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the hopper and the discharge opening are arranged relative to the base plate so that an angle of
10 repose of the feed material acts to restrict flow of feed from the hopper onto the base plate and to replace fresh feed only when feed is taken away.

5. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the base plate includes a portion extending rearwards from the transverse restricting member for receiving any feed escaping over the transverse restricting member.

15 6. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the flooring includes a sow section for receiving the sow when lying or standing and at least one side portion for receiving the piglets and wherein the trough includes upstanding side walls at or adjacent the sides of the sow section to restrict feed from escaping over the sides of the trough.

20 7. The farrowing crate according to claim 6 wherein the transverse restricting member extends fully across the trough from one side to the other side.

8. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the hopper includes a discharge opening for discharging the feed into the trough at the front wall.

5 9. The farrowing crate according to claim 8 wherein there are provided side restriction members on each side of the discharge opening at the front wall to restrict side to side movement of the head of the sow during feeding.

10 10. The farrowing crate according to claim 8 wherein the hopper is located outside the front wall and the discharge opening extends through the front wall.

11. The farrowing crate according to claim 8 wherein the front wall includes a gate and wherein the hopper is mounted on the gate.

12. The farrowing crate according to claim 11 wherein the trough is fixed to the flooring such that the opening of the gate moves the hopper away from a front edge of the trough.

15 13. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the raised transverse restriction member includes a front surface, a rear surface and a smoothly curved top edge.

20 14. The farrowing crate according to claim 13 wherein the front surface and the rear surface are inclined to form an inverted V-shape in cross-section.

15. The farrowing crate according to claim 1 wherein the raised transverse restricting member has a height no greater than 2.0 inches from the base plate.

16. A feeder for mounting at a gate of an animal containment cage
5 comprising;

a hopper for containing feed for supply to the sow and having a discharge opening through which the feed falls,

a trough for receiving feed discharged from the hopper;

the trough comprising a base plate arranged to lie substantially flat on
10 a floor and extend from a front edge rearwardly over the floor;

wherein the hopper and the discharge opening are arranged relative to the base plate so that an angle of repose of the feed material acts to restrict flow of feed from the hopper onto the base plate and to replace fresh feed only when feed is taken away;

15 the base plate forming the trough having a raised transverse restricting member spaced from the front edge and extending generally across the base plate to define a trough area of the base plate forwardly of the transverse restricting member;

the transverse restricting member being shaped so as to have a height
20 which tends to restrain feed from escaping from the trough area rearwardly;

and the transverse restricting member being shaped so as to allow an animal to lie on the floor with its head extending over the transverse restricting member into the trough area without causing discomfort to the lying animal.

17. The feeder according to claim 16 wherein the base plate is flat.

5 18. The feeder according to claim 16 wherein the base plate includes a portion extending rearwards from the transverse restricting member for receiving any feed escaping over the transverse restricting member.

19. The feeder according to claim 16 wherein there are provided side restriction members on each side of the discharge opening at the front wall to
10 restrict side to side movement of the head of the sow during feeding.

20. The feeder according to claim 16 wherein the raised transverse restriction member includes a front surface, a rear surface and a smoothly curved top edge wherein the front surface and the rear surface are inclined to form an inverted V-shape in cross-section.

15 21. The feeder according to claim 20 wherein the raised transverse restricting member has a height no greater than 2.0 inches from the base plate.